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MEDIA RELEASE

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South Carolina Department of Insurance Announces Safe Home Grant Awards

Scott H. Richardson, Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance and Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the South Carolina Building Codes Council, announced today the second round of awards of the SC Safe Home Grant Program. "We are pleased to announce this second round of awards and commend these homeowners in their efforts to strengthen their homes and be better prepared against the damaging effects of hurricane force winds. We are familiar with the damage that these natural disasters can cause and encourage homeowners to take the necessary steps to protect their property," said Director Richardson.

Fifteen homeowners were awarded grants of up to \$5,000 each to help strengthen their homes against natural disasters, bringing the total number of awards to twenty-nine. All grant recipients are residents of coastal counties.

The SC Safe Home Grant Program was established this past June as a part of the Omnibus Insurance Reform Act of 2007. The Program, administered by the South Carolina Department of Insurance, provides opportunities for families to increase the safety of their homes against the damaging winds caused by hurricanes and severe storms.

Retrofitted or strengthened homes are less vulnerable to the effects of severe storms, thereby rendering storm damage less likely and less extreme. Fewer damages result in fewer or lower insurance claims and will ultimately reduce insurance premiums for South Carolinians.

Homeowners can apply for the program to receive funds up to \$5,000 to make specific mitigation improvements as recommended by a SC Safe Home Certified Wind Inspector. During the pilot phase of the SC Safe Home Grant Program grants are awarded on a first come first serve basis focusing on those areas that are most vulnerable to the effects of hurricane damaging winds.

Go to the South Carolina Safe Home website at www.SCSafeHome.com or call 803-737-6117 for SC Safe Home Grant Applications or additional information.

For questions concerning this information, please contact Ann Roberson, Public Information Officer, at 803-737-6207.

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